

REMARKS

This communication is responsive to the Official Action mailed December 22, 2003.

As a result of the present amendment, claims 44 through 58 are pending in the application. Claim 44 has been amended and claims 45 through 58 are newly presented.

In the Official Action, the Examiner objected to claim 44 because the term "the thickness of the ferromagnetic plate" lacked antecedent basis. The Examiner also rejected claim 44 under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,671,526 to Merlano (hereinafter "Merlano").

Claim 44 has been amended to now recite "each of said cut strips having a width greater than the thickness of the starting plate and equal to a thickness of the ferromagnetic plate to be fabricated." Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment to claim 44 overcomes the Examiner's objection to claim 44.

Claim 44 has also been amended to recite "stacking the strips to form the ferromagnetic plate so that the faces of the strips abut one another; and forming at least a portion of the magnetic resonance scanner magnet frame with the ferromagnetic plate." Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment to claim 44 does not constitute the addition of new matter. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, by reference to paragraph [0101] of the written description.

Newly presented claim 45 depends from claim 44 and recites "wherein said cutting step further comprises cutting the starting plate into strips having a width of approximately 13 or more inches." Applicants respectfully submit that claim 45 does not constitute the addition of new matter. Support for claim 45 may be found, for example, by reference to paragraph [0102] of the written description.

Newly presented claim 46 depends from claim 44 and recites "wherein said cutting step comprises cutting a starting plate having a thickness of approximately 9 or more inches." Applicants respectfully submit that newly presented claim 46 does not constitute the addition of new matter. Support for claim 46 may be found, for example, by reference to paragraph [0102] of the written description.

Newly presented claims 47 and 48 depend from claim 44 and each respectively recite "permanently joining said stacked strips together using fasteners" and "welding said stacked strips together." Support for claims 47 and 48 may be found, for example, in paragraph [0101] of the written description.

Newly presented claim 49 depends from claim 44 and recites "wherein said stacking step further comprises orienting the strips such that flux passing between the strips is minimal." Newly presented claim 50 depends from claim 49 and recites "wherein orienting comprises arranging the strips such that each strip includes a long axis that extends along a direction parallel to the ferromagnetic plate's magnetic flux lines." Support for newly presented claims 49 and 50 may be found, for example, in paragraph [0101].

Newly presented claim 51 is an independent claim. Claim 51 recites "cutting a starting plate having oppositely-directed major surfaces into a plurality of strips, each of the strips having a width approximately greater than 9 inches and faces which originally constituted parts of the major surfaces of the starting plate; and positioning the strips to form the composite plate such that the width of each of the strips is equal to a thickness of the composite plate and the faces of the strips confront one another." Applicants respectfully submit that claim 51 does not constitute the addition of new matter. Support for claim 51 may be found, for example, in paragraphs [0101] and [0102].

Newly presented claim 52 depends from claim 51 and recites "cutting the starting plate to form strips having a width of approximately 13 inches." Support for claim 52 may be found, for example, by reference to paragraph [0102].

Newly presented claims 53 and 54 depend from claim 51. Claims 53 and 54 track claims 47 and 48, respectively, and therefore also do not constitute the addition of new matter.

Newly presented claim 55 depends from claim 51 and recites "wherein positioning further comprises orienting the strips such that flux passing between the strips is minimal." Newly presented claim 56 depends from claim 55 and recites "wherein orienting comprises arranging the strips such that each strip includes a long axis that extends along a direction parallel to a predominant direction of the magnetic flux lines within the composite plates." Support for claims 55 and 56 may be found, for example, in paragraph [0101].

Newly presented claims 57 and 58 depend from claim 56. Claim 57 recites "assembling the composite plates to form a pole support of the magnetic resonance imaging magnet such that the long axes of the strips extend between connecting elements of the pole support." Claim 58 recites "assembling the composite plates to form a connecting element of the magnetic resonance imaging magnet such that the long axes of the strips extend between pole supports of the connecting element." Antecedent basis for these claims may be found in paragraph [0101], for example.

In view of the present amendments to the claims applicants respectfully submit that *Merlano* does not anticipate the claims presently pending in the application.

In particular, *Merlano* does not teach or suggest "stacking the strips to form the ferromagnetic plate so that the faces of the strips abut one another; and forming at least a portion of the magnetic resonance scanner magnet frame with the

ferromagnetic plate" as is recited in claim 44. As the Examiner indicated in the Final Official Action of July 25, 2003, (Paper No. 12), *Merlano* teaches a method "of preparing transformer cores." (Paper No. 12, pg. 2.) As such, *Merlano* is devoid of any teaching or suggestion of "forming at least a portion of the magnetic resonance scanner magnet frame with the ferromagnetic plate" as is recited in claim 44. Simply put, there is not even the slightest mention in *Merlano* of forming any portion of a magnetic resonance scanner magnet frame. As such, for at least this reason *Merlano* neither anticipates nor obviates claim 44.

With regard to claim 51, *Merlano* does not teach, disclose or suggest "cutting a starting plate having oppositely-directed major surfaces into a plurality of strips, each of the strips having a width approximately greater than 9 inches . . . and positioning the strips to form the composite plate such that the width of each of the strips is equal to a thickness of the composite plate." Applicants respectfully submit that *Merlano* does not suggest, much less teach, cutting strips, e.g., *Merlano's* strips 11, so that the width of the strips and thickness of the resulting core is approximately greater than 9 inches. Indeed, as a general matter, the individual plates or strips that make-up transformer cores are generally less than an inch in thickness. Thus, *Merlano* does not suggest "positioning the strips to form the composite plate such that the . . . thickness of the composite plate" is equal to the width of "each of the strips." Each strip having a width of approximately 9 inches or greater.

As claims 45 through 50 and 52 through 58 respectively depend from claims 44 and 51, applicants respectfully submit that these claims are also not anticipated or obviated by *Merlano* for at least the reasons given above.

In view of the present amendment to the claims and applicants arguments set forth above, applicants respectfully

submit that the Examiner's response to applicants arguments filed October 27, 2003 are now moot.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited of all the claims presently pending in the application, namely claims 44 through 58. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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